

Remarks on *Conus telatus* REEVE (Mollusca: Gastropoda)

BY

WILLIAM E. OLD, Jr.

The American Museum of Natural History
Seventy-ninth Street and Central Park West, New York, New York 10024

AND

ANTHONY D'ATTILIO

44 Lynwood Drive, Valley Stream, Long Island, New York 11580

(Plate 12)

A number of specimens of *Conus* recently collected in the Philippines, notably by the Norton - Dayrit - de Mesa Palawan Expedition, were submitted to us for examination. They were found to be difficult to assign to any easily recognizable species. Although the color pattern suggests a general affinity to *Conus textile* LINNAEUS, 1758, the specimens obviously differ in several characteristics from any known form of *C. textile*. The two most marked characters of the present specimens are the strong spiral ridges on the body whorl and the nodulose spire with excavated whorls.

It was suggested by the collectors that the specimens might be referable to *Conus telatus* REEVE, 1848, in spite of no mention having been made by REEVE (1848) of spiral ridges and nodes on the spire. Two specimens were submitted to the British Museum (Natural History) for comparison with the holotype. In a personal communication, Mr. S. P. Dance kindly answered our inquiry as follows:

"The type of *C. telatus* REEVE is rather more inflated than either of your specimens. The spire is more like that of the larger of your two shells [figs. 2 and 2a], and is very weakly nodulate. In colouring and surface sculpture it is closer to your smaller shell [figs.

1 and 1a]. If you want a subjective opinion, I am inclined to think both your shells represent the same species, which would seem to be very variable."

The brief description and the figure of *Conus telatus* in the "Conchologia Iconica" suggest that this taxon is one of the numerous named varieties of the *C. textile* group, and has led most students to reject or dubiously accept the validity of *C. telatus*. REEVE's brief description is repeated here, and is followed by our supplementary description.

"Shell oblong-conical, somewhat pyramidal, smooth, striated towards the base, spire concavely acuminate; white, marked throughout with a fine orange-brown net-work, encircled with two bands of large golden-yellow blotches, marked with longitudinally waved black lines.

Habitat ——" {Suppl. Pl. 1, fig. 270. - Ed.}

Supplemental Description: Entire body whorl spirally ridged, whorls on spire concave, striated and nodulose; the nodes strongest from penultimate whorl to apex on a strong ridge over the suture.

SOWERBY (1858) considered *Conus telatus* as "approaching *Conus gloriamaris* rather than *textile* in form, and in the light sandy character of its reticulations."

Explanation of Plate 12

Figures 1 and 1a: *Conus telatus* REEVE. Palawan Island, Philippines (American Museum of Natural History no. 102773). Figure 1 - Apertural view; Figure 1a - Dorsal view. x one and one third.

Figures 2, 2a, and 3: *Conus telatus* REEVE, from between Coron and Busuanga Islands, Palawan, Philippines. Figure 2 - Apertural view. Specimen in J. Norton collection. x one and one third. Figure 2a - Close-up of spire. x three. Figure 3 - Dorsal view of specimen in A. D'Attilio collection. x one and one third.

American Museum of Natural History, photographs.



Figure 1

Figure 1 a

Figure 2

Figure 3



Figure 2 a